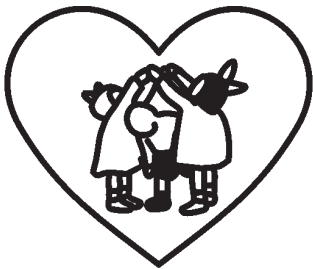


*To speak with an
Adoptions From The Heart
adoption counselor call...*

(800) 355-5500

Counselors are available

24 hours a day



Adoptions From The Heart®

Adoptions From The Heart is a private, non-profit,
non-sectarian agency licensed in Pennsylvania,
New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia,
Connecticut & New York

New Jersey Office:

Adoptions From The Heart
451 Woodland Avenue
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
(856) 665-5655
(732) 335-8883

AFTH Adoption Counselors
are available to work with
families throughout the State
of New Jersey.



*Considering
adoption?*

Know Your Rights

If you are considering
placing your child for
adoption, there are some
things you should know...

 **Adoptions From The Heart®**

www.afth.org
adoption@afth.org

BP-81-NJ
1/2014

You should know...

New Jersey Adoption Law states that:

1 You, the birthmother, no matter your age, have the right to make an adoption plan and place your child for adoption including through a NJ licensed adoption agency, which provides you with Free and Confidential Option Counseling. Should you chose to work with an agency and place your baby for adoption, you will have to sign a Surrender of Parental Rights and Consent to Adopt to place your baby for adoption. You cannot sign this document until the baby is at least 72 hours old. Birthfathers, when known, must be notified of the adoption and when available, sign a Surrender of Parental Rights and Consent to Adopt. A birthmother may not know or refuse to name the father of the baby and then must sign an Affidavit explaining why. If you are married or were married during the year before your baby is born, your husband will be asked to sign a surrender whether or not he is the father of your baby.

2 Once you sign your Surrender of Parental Rights and Consent to Adopt, you can not change your mind. This is why an adoption agency provides you with option counseling before you make your final decision and offers post placement counseling to you. Counseling is **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL**.

3 You may place your baby directly from the hospital through an agency with an adoptive family. Foster care is not required.

Other important information

♥ You have the right to at least 3 separate counseling sessions provided by an adoption counselor or social worker employed by a NJ State Licensed Adoption Agency. You have the right to option counseling regarding your baby and if adoption is right for you. You can obtain a list of licensed adoption agencies from your hospital where you are delivering your baby or ask us for a copy.

♥ You cannot accept money for your child to be placed for adoption.

♥ NJ allows adoptive families to assist you with pregnancy related items such as maternity clothes, housing, medical and legal expenses if needed

♥ If pregnancy related expenses have been paid on your behalf, this does not mean that you must place your baby for adoption. If you change your mind about placing your baby for adoption, you do not have to repay them.

♥ Adoptions are legal in New Jersey when done through a NJ licensed adoption agency or when done privately. Agencies provide free counseling as part of their services to you.

In addition...

You have the right:

♥ To receive at least 3 free and confidential option counseling sessions to help you with your decision. You have the right to waive these.

♥ To have counseling even after your rights have been terminated.

♥ To select and meet the adoptive family for your baby.

♥ To request letters and pictures of your baby after placement, even visits.

♥ To get help from the clinic or hospital social worker:

About your decision

If someone is pressuring you or bothering you

For a list of NJ licensed adoption agencies in your area.

*If you need more information after reading this brochure, ask to speak to a hospital or clinic social worker, or call Adoptions From The Heart
This brochure was prepared by*